

IN THE CLAIMS:

A complete listing of the claims is set forth below. Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1 - 19 **(Canceled).**

20. **(New)** A guard for a reciprocating saw, comprising:

 an attachment portion configured for attachment to the exterior of the reciprocating saw;

 a seal portion;

 an aperture extending through the seal portion, the aperture being configured to allow at least one blade of the reciprocating saw to extend therethrough while maintaining a sealing contact between the seal portion and the at least one blade, such that liquids and particulate matter are prevented from entering the reciprocating saw.

21. **(New)** The guard according to Claim 20, wherein the liquid and particulate matter comprise:

 flesh;

 hair;

 bone;

 water; and

 blood.

22. **(New)** The guard according to Claim 20, wherein the attachment portion is secured against the reciprocating saw by a press fit connection.

23. **(New)** The guard according to Claim 20, wherein the guard is formed from material selected from the group consisting of:

plastic;

rubber;

synthetic monomer;

synthetic polymer; and

ethylene propylene diene monomer.

24. **(New)** The guard according to Claim 20, wherein the reciprocating saw is a cordless, battery-powered reciprocating saw.

25. **(New)** The guard according to Claim 20, wherein the guard is adapted for use in field-dressing an animal carcass.

26. **(New)** A reciprocating saw comprising:
- a housing;
 - at least one blade extending out from the housing;
 - a guard member detachably connected to the exterior of the housing;
 - a slot passing through the guard member, the slot being configured to receive the at least one blade and to form a seal between the at least one blade and the guard member, such that debris is prevented from entering the housing.
27. **(New)** The reciprocating saw according to Claim 26, further comprising:
- a rechargeable battery.
28. **(New)** The reciprocating saw according to Claim 26, wherein the guard member comprises:
- a recessed portion adapted to form a press fit around a protruding portion of the housing.
29. **(New)** The reciprocating saw according to Claim 26, wherein the guard member is formed from material selected from the group consisting of:
- plastic;
 - rubber;
 - synthetic monomer;
 - synthetic polymer; and
 - ethylene propylene diene monomer.

30. **(New)** The reciprocating saw according to Claim 26, wherein the guard member is configured for ease of detachment and cleaning.

31. **(New)** The reciprocating saw according to Claim 30, wherein the guard member is configured to prevent debris from collecting thereon during use.

32. **(New)** A method of field-dressing an animal carcass, comprising the steps of:
providing a reciprocating saw having a blade extending through a housing;
providing a guard having a blade seal;
attaching the guard to the housing by passing the blade through the blade seal;
field-dressing the animal carcass with the reciprocating saw, wherein debris is prevented from entering the housing by the guard.
33. **(New)** The method according to Claim 32, wherein the reciprocating saw is a battery-powered saw.
34. **(New)** The method according to Claim 32, further comprising the step of:
detaching the guard from the reciprocating saw by pulling the blade through the blade seal.